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Docket No.: PIC.002.P

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 without prejudice, add new claim 13 through 17 and amend claims 1, 7 and 10 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An A-earring for a pierced ear comprising:
 - (a) a shaft, said shaft being mounted on a base;
 - (b) a connector having a top surface and a bottom surface, a cavity with means for engaging said shaft that fits flush against said pierced ear on said bottom surface and an adapter projecting from said top surface of the connector on the obverse said adapter being a nipple; and
 - (c) a cap having a cavity to receive said adapter on one side and a decorative aspect of the earring attached on the obverse said cap comprising a flexible component capable of expanding to receive said nipple and retracting to grasp said nipple when said nipple and said cavity are pressed together.
2. (Original) The earring according to claim 1 wherein said shaft comprises or is made of a hypoallergenic material.
3. (Original) The earring according to claim 1 wherein said shaft is threaded and wherein said means for engaging said shaft is threaded in said cavity able to receive said threaded shaft.
4. (Original) The earring according to claim 1 wherein said shaft is grooved and wherein said means for engaging said shaft are depressions in said cavity that interlock with said grooved shaft.
5. (cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The earring according to claim 1 wherein

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said cavity to receive ~~means for affixing to~~ said adapter is further comprises a clasping device.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of wearing an earring for a pierced ear comprising a shaft, said shaft having a base; a connector having a top surface and a bottom surface, a cavity with means for engaging said shaft that fits flush against said pierced ear on said bottom surface and an adapter projecting from said top surface of the connector on the obverse said adapter being a nipple; and a cap having a cavity to receive said adapter on one side and a decorative aspect of the earring attached on the obverse said cap comprising a flexible component capable of expanding to receive said nipple and retracting to grasp said nipple when said nipple and said cavity are pressed together comprising the step of:

(a) inserting said shaft through a pierced ear having a front and a back wherein said base is flush against said back of said ear and said shaft protrudes from said front of said ear;

(b) affixing said connector onto said shaft by inserting said shaft into said cavity wherein said adapter is positioned away from said front of said ear; and

(c) affixing said cap to said adapter such that said decorative aspect is positioned away from said front of said ear.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) An earring for a pierced ear comprising:

(a) a shaft, said shaft being mounted on a base;

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- (b) a connector having a top surface and a bottom surface, a cavity with means for engaging said shaft that fits flush against said pierced ear on said bottom surface and an adapter projecting from said top surface of the connector on the obverse said adapter being a pin having a flat head extending perpendicularly from the top surface of said connector; and
 - (c) a cap having a keyhole-shaped slot capable of receiving said pin head of said adapter on one side and a decorative aspect of the earring attached on the obverse.
14. (New) The earring according to claim 13 wherein said shaft comprises or is made of a hypoallergenic material.
15. (New) The earring according to claim 13 wherein said shaft is threaded and wherein said means for engaging said shaft is threaded in said cavity able to receive said threaded shaft.
16. (New) The earring according to claim 13 wherein said shaft is grooved and wherein said means for engaging said shaft are depressions in said cavity that interlock with said grooved shaft.
17. (New) A method of wearing an earring for a pierced ear comprising a shaft, said shaft having a base; a connector having a top surface and a bottom surface, a cavity with means for engaging said shaft that fits flush against said pierced ear on said bottom surface and an adapter projecting from said top surface of the connector on the obverse said adapter being a pin having a flat head extending perpendicularly from the top surface of said connector; and a cap having a keyhole-shaped slot capable of receiving said pin head of said adapter on one side and a decorative aspect of the earring attached on the obverse comprising the step of:

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- (a) inserting said shaft through a pierced ear having a front and a back wherein said base is flush against said back of said ear and said shaft protrudes from said front of said ear;
- (b) affixing said connector onto said shaft by inserting said shaft into said cavity wherein said adapter is positioned away from said front of said ear; and
- (c) affixing said cap to said adapter such that said decorative aspect is positioned away from said front of said ear.

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